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### ***Department of Energy Grant Awarded to Commerce for Indianapolis Airport***

INDIANAPOLIS — Lt. Governor Joe Kernan announced today that the Indiana Department of Commerce's Energy Policy Division has been awarded a \$150,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy that will be used by the Indianapolis Airport Authority.

The federal funding will go towards upgrading the compressed natural gas (CNG) refueling facilities at Indianapolis International Airport. The project will allow the Airport to phase-out the use of diesel fuel in its parking shuttle buses in favor of clean-burning compressed natural gas (CNG).

"This grant is great news for the Indianapolis International Airport and the citizens of central Indiana," said Kernan, who serves as the director of the Department of Commerce. "This project will be a major step in improving the region's air quality and toward increasing the quality of the travel experience for all who pass through the airport. Efforts like this also help lessen our dependency on imported oil."

In submitting the grant application to the Department of Energy, the Energy Policy Division worked closely with the Central Indiana Clean Cities Alliance, Inc. (CICCA), a coalition that includes several public and private partners and that advocates the use of alternatively fueled vehicles in central Indiana. The Airport Authority, Citizens Gas & Coke Utility, the Indiana Department of Commerce, the Indiana Natural Gas Vehicle Coalition, and Lubs Technology, Inc are providing matching funds for the project.

The project is part of a comprehensive plan to convert the Airport's entire fleet of parking shuttle buses to CNG power over the next three years. Currently six of the 30 buses in the fleet are powered by CNG and are refueled at a slow-fill refueling system at the Airport maintenance complex. The current facility does not have adequate capacity for additional shuttle buses. The expanded refueling station will be able to serve both the shuttle buses and other light vehicles operated by the Airport Authority.

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The proposed location near High School Road will be open to the public and be capable of serving vehicles in fleets of other companies at or near the airport. The total cost of the project is \$540,000, including the construction of the refueling facilities and the additional purchase costs for CNG powered buses.

Switching from diesel fuel to CNG is expected to reduce the emission of unburned hydrocarbons from the shuttle buses by 89%, carbon monoxide by 70%, nitrogen oxides by 60%, and particulate matter by 90%. Airport officials estimate that converting the airport shuttle fleet to CNG will eliminate the combustion of 187,500 gallons of diesel fuel per year.

For more information about this project, or other energy-related Commerce programs, please contact Phil Powlick in the Indiana Department of Commerce's Energy Policy Division at 317.232.8940 or visit the Web site at [www.indianacommerce.com](http://www.indianacommerce.com).

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